

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 SCI-06

SCEM-02 DRC-01 /172 W
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R 141511Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0651

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 0270

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, LI

SUBJECT: EFFECT OF ENERGY SITUATION ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION
AND TRADE

STATE ALSO FOR AGRICULTURE

REF: A. STATE 005278

B. MONROVIA A-171 OF 12/20/73.

1. OVERVIEW OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS ENERGY CRISIS, INFLATION AND
COMMODITY SHORTAGES ON LIBERIAN ECONOMY FURNISHED IN REF B.
FOLLOWING IS RESPONSE REF A.

2. LIBERIA HAS NO FERTILIZER PRODUCTION OR MIXING CAPACITY.
MOST RECENT AVAILABLE DATA ON FERTILIZER IMPORTS IS FOR
CY 1972, AS FOLLOWS:

TYPE	QUNATITY (LONG TONS)	VALUE (U.S. DOLLARS)
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NATURAL FERTILIZER OF ANIMAL OR VEGETABLE ORIGIN	2,098	\$84,184
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NATURAL SODIUM NITRATE	138	12,744
NATURAL PHOSPHATE	671	18,797
NATURAL POTASSIC SALT	45	4,325
MANUFACTURED CALCIUM & AMMONIUM NITRATE (NOTE: THE ALMOST ENTIRELY COMPRISED OF AMMONIUM NITRATE WHICH USED WITH FUEL OIL AS ANFO EXPLOSIVE IN IRON MINES.)	8,403	620,583
SULPHATE OF AMMONIA	3	136
OTHER NITROGENOUS FERTILIZERS EXCEPT NATURAL	2,532	239,953
PHOSPHATIC FERTILIZERS	1,671	161,375
POTASSIC FERTILIZERS	533	45,877
MANUFACTURED FERTILIZERS	864	85,285
TOTAL	16,958	\$1,573,259

3. THERE WERE NO EXPORTS OF FERTILIZERS. IMPORTS PRESUMABLY EQUAL CONSUMPTION AS THERE NO KNOWN SIGNIFICANT STOCKPILING.

4. NO DATA AVAILABLE ON FERTILIZER PRICES TO FARMERS. HOWEVER, 5 PER CENT TARIFF CHARGEABLE ON FERTILIZERS NOT USED BY FOREIGN CONCESSION SECTOR (IRON MINES, RUBBER PLANTATIONS) OR GOVERNMENT. OF TOTAL FERTILIZER IMPORTS 1972 OF \$1,573,259 ONLY \$15,641 WAS DUTIABLE. IT OBVIOUS, THEREFORE, THAT ALMOST ALL FERTILIZER IMPORTS USED BY FOREIGN CONCESSIONS (AS EXPLOSIVES IN CASE OF IRON MINES) OR BY FEW GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS.

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5. PRESENT SHORTAGES AND HIGH PRICES IMPORTED RICE (SEE REF B) HAVE CAUSED GOL CALL FOR QUOTATIONS ADDITIONAL 1500 TONS 15-15-15 (NPK) DRY FORM AND 500 TONS AMMONIUM SULPHATE FOR USE BY GOL EXPERIMENTAL STATIONS AND SMALL FARMERS FOR RICE GROWING (MONROVIA 6844 OF 12/13/73).

6. GOL DOES NOT FURNISH GNP ESTIMATES. INSTEAD, USES GDP. ESTIMATES BY GOL OF GDP AT MARKET PRICES WERE \$448 MILLION IN 1971 AND \$484 MILLION IN 1972. LARGELY DUE HIGHER PRICES EXPORTED IRON ORE AND NATURAL RUBBER, EMBASSY ESTIMATES

1973 GDP AT \$525 MILLION. NO FORECAST AVAILABLE FOR 1974.

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Message Attributes

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